DIKE

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repair Soapstone bridge and rescue 16 people stranded in a, YMCA camp, Symmes said.

Raging waters uprooted hundreds of lodgepole and spruce trees, scattering them for more than a mile down the flood path.

The floodwaters left the area looking like Georgia's "Okefenokee Swamp," a forest service official said.

Cobblerest Campground and parts of Soapstone, Shady Dell and Lower Provo River campgrounds were badly damaged

The cause of the break is a mystery to officials.

"A (forest service) watermaster was up there a few days ago and saw no noticeable problem," Symmes said. "There was no water running over the dike or anything to indicate it was in trouble."

Symmes said the earthen dike was well built and well maintained and had a number of trees growing on it.

"The feeling is that it apparently got saturated along that dike to the point that it became weakened."

Officials from the Utah Department of Transportation and the U.S. Forest Service will meet Sunday to assess damage and begin planning repairs.

Road repair costs are expected to be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, Symmes said, and damage to the campgrounds was estimated at about $60,000. Crews will be busy all summer cleaning up the debris and repairing the facilities, he said.

The campgrounds should be opened for limited use in a few weeks, he said. Tests conducted Saturday showed that no damage was done to the culinary water system.

No lasting damage was done to the land or fisheries, Symmes said.

A couple had to abandon their pickup truck and tent trailer in the mud at Shady Dell Campground. They were not able to get out until late in the morning when the floodwaters finally receded.

"Nature will heal itself, and with our help it will heal faster."

Symmes said he and other officials surveyed the lakes in the area by helicopter Saturday afternoon. All the lakes are draining normally, he said.

The flood was the worst, in terms of property damage, in recent memory, he said.

PHOTOGRAPHY/ PAUL BARKER

Although the Provo River Bridge is still intact, it was clogged by debris, forcing floodwaters to carve a new channel around it.